

CLiPPA 2018 (Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award)

- **Hip Hop artist and debut poet Karl Nova announced as the winner of CLiPPA 2018**
- ***Rising Stars* poetry collection, by poets and performers from under-represented communities, is highly commended**

Grace Nichols, Poet and Chair of the CLiPPA 2018 judges praised the winning book: *“This book really stood out for me with its refreshing use of the rap genre, its musicality, its immediacy and thoughtful reflections on the creative process. Karl Nova’s poems ring true with a sincere charm that children and young people can relate to and that may inspire their own writing.”*

Rising Stars by Ruth Awolola, Victoria Adukwei Bulley, Abigail Cook, Jay Hulme and Amina Jama, published by Otter-Barry Books, was highly commended.

Rhythm and Poetry is Karl’s first published book, with his poems being drawn from his extensive work as a poetry educator and the many workshops he holds in schools. It has a refreshing directness, honesty and authenticity which encourages children to see poetry in the everyday, explores the musicality of poetry and demonstrates the currency and significance of rap as an art form, especially for young people.

Karl’s win comes at a time when poetry is being embraced into the mainstream; a popularity echoed in children’s poetry, and the raised profile of CLiPPA. The award is the flagship event in CLPE’s year round championing of poetry. Through their Power of Reading project, CLPE work with teachers and with poets to really understand how to make poetry teaching engaging and impactful in classrooms. This year, with the support of the Siobhan Dowd Trust, they have ensured 350 free copies of the shortlisted poetry books will be sent to teachers nationally to celebrate poetry with children.

As the award grows year on year the trickle-down effect on children’s poetry publishing is self-evident with an increase in CLiPPA submissions of almost 70% for 2018.

Louise Johns-Shepherd, Chief Executive, CLPE said: *“At CLPE, we are determined to celebrate the very best children’s poetry by involving more schools, producing more resources and getting more poetry books into schools. We promote it, we research it, we help teachers to use it in schools – we are poetry because poetry is the gateway to literacy.”*

Karl Nova received the award and a cheque for £1,000 in front of a packed audience of poets, educators, publishers, shadowing school children and media at The National Theatre. The shortlisted poets all performed on stage alongside children from the CLiPPA Shadowing Scheme, whose winning performances were selected from hundreds of competition entries. Everyone who attended received an advance copy of the new anthology from National Poetry Day, *Poetry for a Change*.

CLiPPA is made possible by the generous support of ALCS, Siobhan Dowd Trust and St Olave’s Fund.

For more information or to arrange an interview with the CLiPPA 2018 winner please contact Liz Scott on 07879640 222, email liz@lizscottpr.co.uk or contact Fatim Kesvani fatim@clpe.org.uk

Further press images can be downloaded from www.flickr.com/photos/clpe_1/

Films of the shortlisted poets performing and teaching resources are available at www.clpe.org.uk/poetryline

Notes for Editors

The judging panel was chaired by the poet and one of the first ever CLIPPA winners, Grace Nichols along with Kate Wakeling, poet and CLIPPA 2017 winner for *Moon Juice*, Imogen Lycett Green, Director of the Betjeman Prize for Young Poets, Charlotte Hacking, CLPE Learning Programme Leader and Anthony Anaxagorou, poet, poetry educator and founder of Out-Spoken Press.

The CLIPPA 2018 Shortlist in full:

- **John Agard:** *The Rainmaker Danced*, illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura, Hodder
- **Ruth Awolola, Victoria Adukwei Bulley, Abigail Cook, Jay Hulme, Amina Jama:** *Rising Stars*, illustrated by Riya Chowdhury, Elanor Chuah and Joe Manners, Otter-Barry Books
- **Joseph Coelho:** *Overheard in a Tower Block*, illustrated by Kate Milner, Otter-Barry Books
- **Sarah Crossan:** *Moonrise*, Bloomsbury
- **Sue Hardy-Dawson:** *Where Zebras Go*, illustrated by the poet, Otter-Barry Books
- **Karl Nova:** *Rhythm and Poetry*, illustrated by Joseph Witchall, Caboodle Books

Performance films and teaching materials for all the shortlisted works are available for free on www.clpe.org.uk/poetryline

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE)

CLPE is an independent UK charity working to raise the literacy achievement of children by putting quality children's literature at the heart of all learning. CLIPPA, the CLPE Children's Poetry Award, was developed to ensure that children's poetry has a recognised place within children's literature. For free poetry resources including films of poets performing visit www.clpe.org.uk/poetryline. For further information about CLPE please visit www.clpe.org.uk. Find the full list of previous winners at <https://www.clpe.org.uk/poetryline/clippa>

Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS)

ALCS provides a unique service for all types of author. They collect money for authors that can't be administered on an individual basis, from all over the world, from a wide variety of sources and pay it to them. ALCS campaigns for the rights of authors and provides a collective voice for the wide variety of individuals that make up their membership. They educate about the principles of copyright and intellectual property and their importance to authors to the general public. ALCS currently has over 95,000 writer members and, since its inception in 1977, has paid over £450million to the nation's writers www.alcs.co.uk.

National Theatre

The National Theatre is dedicated to making the very best theatre and sharing it with as many people as possible. They produce productions on the South Bank in London each year, ranging from re-imagined classics to modern masterpieces and new work by contemporary writers and theatre-makers. The National's work is seen on tour throughout the UK, in London's West End, internationally (including on Broadway) and in collaborations and co-productions with theatres across the country <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

The Siobhan Dowd Trust

The Siobhan Dowd Trust works to give young people the opportunity to access and enjoy books. It is the money earned through UK and International book royalties and other income from Siobhan's work that allows the trust to support deserving projects. Find out more at <http://siobhandowdtrust.com> & on Twitter @sdowdtrust